

Listing of claims:

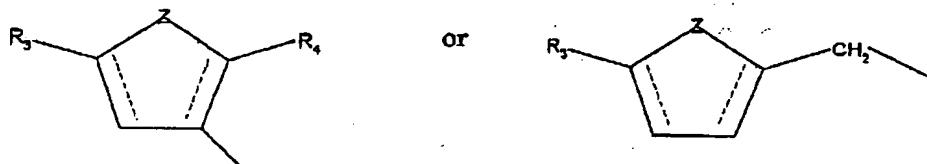
This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A flavor [[Flavour]] precursor[[s having]] represented by the formula:



wherein

R_1 is a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of



wherein Z is an oxygen or a sulphur atom, R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen or an $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group and the symbol ----- [[-----]] represents a single or double bond,

R_2 is derived from a group of primary alcohol compounds consisting of $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkanols, glycerol and mono-, oligo- and polysaccharides, wherein the oxygen of the R_2-O -moiety is attached to a primary carbon atom of R_2 ; and

subjecting the foodstuff to elevated temperature in an aqueous medium such that a flavour compound is formed from the flavour precursor.

Claim 2 (previously presented): Flavor precursor according to claim 1, wherein the precursor is selected from the group consisting of O-ethyl-S-(2-furylmethyl)thiocarbonate, O-ethyl-S-(2-methyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate and O-ethyl-S-(2,5-dimethyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate.

Claims 3-6 canceled.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Flavor precursor according to claim 2, wherein the precursor is O-ethyl-S-(2-furymethyl)thiocarbonate.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Flavor precursor according to claim 2, wherein the precursor is O-ethyl-S-(2-methyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Flavor precursor according to claim 2, wherein the precursor is O-ethyl-S-(2,5-dimethyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A foodstuff containing a flavour precursor according to claim 1 or 2.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A foodstuff according to claim 10, wherein the foodstuff contains 0.0001 to 100 ppm of the flavour precursor.

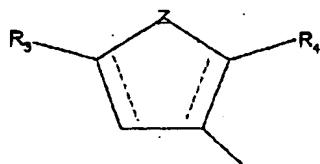
Claim 12 (previously presented): A foodstuff according to claim 10, wherein the foodstuff contains 0.001 to 20 ppm of the flavor precursor.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A process for flavouring a foodstuff comprising providing a foodstuff incorporating a flavour precursor represented by the formula

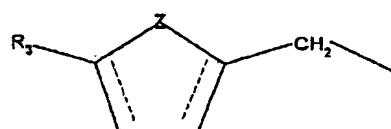


wherein

R_1 is a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of



or



wherein Z is an oxygen or a sulphur atom, R₃ and R₄ represent hydrogen or an C₁ - C₄ alkyl group and the symbol - - - - - represents a single or double bond,

R₂ is derived from a group of primary alcohol compounds consisting of C₁ - C₁₈ alkanols, glycerol and mono-, oligo- and polysaccharides, wherein the oxygen of the R₂-O-moiety is attached to a primary carbon atom of R₂; and

subjecting the foodstuff to elevated temperature in an aqueous medium such that a flavour compound is formed from the flavour precursor.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A process according to claim 13, wherein said elevated temperature is from 70°C to 150°C.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A process according to claim 13, wherein the foodstuff incorporates 0.0001-100 ppm, of the flavour precursor.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A process according to claim 15, wherein the foodstuff incorporates 0.001 to 20 ppm of the flavor precursor.

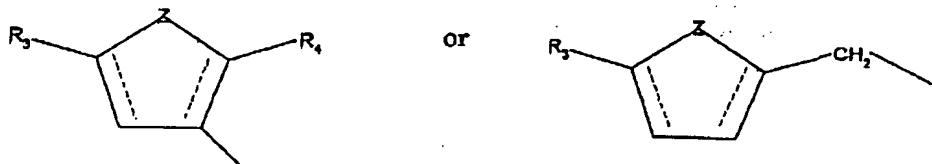
Claim 17 (previously presented): A process according to claim 13, wherein the flavour precursor is selected from the group consisting of O-ethyl-S-(2-furylmethyl)thiocarbonate, O-ethyl-S-(2-methyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate and O-ethyl-S-(2,5-dimethyl-3-furyl)thiocarbonate.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A process for preparing a foodstuff containing a flavour precursor, which comprises combining a foodstuff and a flavour precursor represented by the formula



wherein

R_1 is a heterocyclic radical selected from the group consisting of



wherein Z is an oxygen or a sulphur atom R_3 and R_4 represent hydrogen or an $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group and the symbol ----- represents a single or double bond, and

R_2 is derived from a group of primary alcohol compounds consisting of $C_1 - C_{18}$ alkanols, glycerol and mono-, oligo- and polysaccharides, wherein the oxygen of the R_2 -O- moiety is attached to a primary carbon atom of R_2 [[; and]]

Claim 19 (previously presented): A process for producing a flavour compound which comprises converting a flavour precursor according to claim 1 or 2 to the flavour compound.